

20. A vacancy will soon arise in the Legislative Council, consequent on the expiry of the term of Mr. K. Parameswaran Pillai, who was returned by the members of the Quilon Division. His Highness the Maha Raja has been pleased to command that the members of that Division will now meet under the presidency of the Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, to elect a representative, whose name will be submitted to His Highness for consideration.

21. **Police.**—On the reversion of Mr. F. S. S. George to the British service, the Madras Government kindly lent the services of Mr. C. B. Cunningham for employment as the Commissioner of Police in Travancore, and that officer assumed charge of his duties in Chingam 1091. The strength of the force stood at 1,854 at the close of 1090, giving a ratio of one policeman for every four square miles. There was a decrease of 23 in the number of policemen prosecuted as compared with 1089, while the percentage of conviction was four against six in the previous year. Although 56 policemen were prosecuted by the public, not one of those cases ended in conviction. In this connection, I cannot help repeating the observation made last year that the Magistrates are not alive to their duty in the matter of awarding compensation to the accused, in cases in which they are convinced that the complaints preferred are false. The percentages of conviction in respect of persons and of recovery in respect of property, leave considerable room for improvement. The Government are glad to observe that Mr. Cunningham has already recognised this and proposes to take steps to secure better percentages in future years.

22. **Central Prison.**—The total number of prisoners of all classes at the end of 1090 was 548, against 557 at its beginning. It is unfortunate that the number of deaths rose from 18 to 25 and of admissions into the hospital from 308 to 698, the majority of cases under both the heads being on account of diseases of the digestive system. Early steps will be taken to grapple with the root causes of this evil. The Superintendent is being deputed to study the working of the Penitentiary at Madras and the District Jail at Palamcottah.

23. **Criminal Justice.**—An additional First Class Magistrate's Court has been established as a temporary measure at Perumbavoor, with jurisdiction over the five northernmost taluks of Muvattupuzha, Todupuzha, Kunnathnad, Alangad, and Parur. The District Munsiff of Kanjirapalli was re-invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate. To afford relief to the Tahsildars of Changanachery and Shencottah in their work, the Deputy Tahsildars of those taluks were invested with third class magisterial powers. The number of offences reported fell from 19,618 to 19,353 and the percentage of convictions from 32 to 31. The number of juveniles convicted rose from 18 to 26, of whom only 10 or 38 per cent were committed to the Reformatory. Some of the Magistrates have to be reminded of the existence of this institution in Trivandrum. The number of public servants convicted fell from 17 to 8, the percentage of conviction being 4 against 7 in 1089. The Magistrates have ample powers under the law to put down frivolous and vexatious prosecutions, and it should be their endeavour not to shrink from the free exercise of those powers.

24. **Civil Justice.**—The temporary Second Judge's Court which was working at Parur, has been recently transferred to Alleppey. The term of one year for which the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court at Devicolum was sanctioned, having expired in Edavam 1090, its continuance for another year was sanctioned. The institutions of the year showed a decrease of 2,960 cases under original suits and an increase of 550 cases under appeals.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

25. **Agriculture.**—The Department of Agriculture continued to do good work. For detailed information as to the several measures initiated by the department during the year to improve the agricultural condition of the people, I would invite your attention to Dr. Kunjen Pillai's exhaustive report, copies of which have been ordered to be placed in your hands. A paddy farm was opened at Nagercoil and it is p/

posed to carry on plant-breeding work in that farm. A manure depot was opened at Muvattupuzha, to serve the ryots of the Muvattupuzha and Kunnuatnad taluks. Manurial experiments on paddy were conducted on an extensive scale and considerable progress was made in the transplantation of paddy. It is gratifying to note that some of the ryots have begun to co-operate with the department in popularising new varieties of paddy. The cultivation of the cocoanut, tapioca, sugarcane, and pepper also has received the special attention of the department. Experiments on sericulture were continued in the Silk Farm at Trivandrum, and a new mulberry plantation was opened at Kaipattur. The cultivation of ground-nut and guinea-grass is making steady progress. The ryots have begun to realise the importance of manure as a factor in intensive cultivation, and the manures sold by the department are gaining in popularity. It may be stated here that, as fresh areas for the extension of paddy cultivation are limited, the people should try their best to enhance the yield from the existing paddy lands by adopting improved methods of manuring and other scientific methods of cultivation. The Department of Agriculture is always ready to render help in this direction. The opposition of the ryots to the use of the light iron ploughs is fast disappearing and large numbers of that plough are now being purchased by them. New ideas in regard to agriculture are being disseminated by the department among the ryots, by answers to queries on agricultural subjects, distribution of agricultural leaflets, and by popular lectures and the publication of a vernacular quarterly journal.

26. **Fishery.**—Two Fishery Officers, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training under Sir Frederick Nicholson, returned after training. One of them was appointed as Inspector of Fisheries and the other as Inspector of Fish Industries. The development of fisheries on scientific lines promises to be of benefit both to the State and the people. Orders have been passed on the departmental report submitted on the subject. The experimental fish-curing yard opened at Muttam was continued for a further period of one year. The prejudice against the dry method of curing is reported to be wearing off and there is promise of operations on an extended scale next year. The question of transferring this fish-curing yard from the control of the Excise Department to that of the Director of Agriculture and Fisheries is under contemplation.

27. **Co-operative Societies.**—Mr. C. Govinda Pillai, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who had been deputed to undergo a course of training in Madras, returned after training and resumed charge of his duties towards the close of 1090. An office staff was sanctioned for the Registrar and an Inspector of Co-operative Societies appointed to assist him in his work. The Registrar has been touring through the different taluks of the State for the purpose of popularising the co-operative movement. Eight societies have been registered up to the close of Makaram 1091. Of these, one, "The Trivandrum Central Co-operative Bank," is doing banking business, and another, "The Trivandrum Co-operative Distributive Society", is a distributive society. The other six, of which two are at Karunagapalli, one at Mavelikara, and the remaining three at Kartikapalli, are credit societies and have been started purely on the co-operative principle. The bye-laws of these societies have been published in the Gazette. I may state here that the success of this beneficial movement depends almost entirely upon the people themselves and all that the department can do is to guide and assist them.

28. **Industries.**—The development of the industries of the State is also engaging the attention of the Government, and as promised by me in my reply to one of the representations last year, steps are being taken to secure the services of a competent expert, to undertake an industrial survey of the State and to formulate a definite scheme of action for the Government.

29. **Trade.**—The total value of the external trade was Bh. Rs. 7,11,57,523, of which 59·8 per cent or Bh. Rs. 4,18,20,726 represented the exports. The *per capita* value of the exports fell from Bh. Rs. 12·3 to Bh. Rs. 12·2, while that of the imports rose from Bh. Rs. 8·2 to Bh. Rs. 8·5. The trade in the produce of the cocoa-tree showed a decrease of Rs. 39,78,088, as compared with 1089.